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MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS,

ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF CITIZENS AT THE ROOMS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1861.

The Memorial of the Subscribers, Citizens of the State of New York, respectfully showeth:

That, while sharing in common with our fellow citizens, the general solicitude at the dangers which are now threatening the peace and unity of our country, they desire to give their urgent and emphatic expression of the necessity which seems to exist for mutual conciliation and compromise, and without discussion as to the merits of the various questions at issue, believing that the perpetuity of the Union of these United States as one nation, is of vastly more importance than the establishment or rejection of this or that subject of controversy, and that the people of the North will approve of the general outline of the plan of compromise agreed upon by the Senators and Representatives of the Border States.

Your memorialists humbly pray that such measures may be speedily adopted by Congress, for the settlement of our present difficulties, as will embrace substantially the plan of compromise so recommended by the Representatives of the Border States, and which, they believe, will restore tranquillity and peace to our now distracted country.

Resolutions Adopted, Friday, January 18, 1861.

I.—*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to circulate the foregoing Memorial for signatures, and [illegible] the city, and, as far as practicable, the State, canvassed for the purpose.

II.—*Resolved*, That a Committee of our most influential citizens, irrespective of party, be appointed, with power to add to their number, to take charge of the memorial when signed, and forward or present the same at Washington, in such manner as they may deem most judicious, using their influence for the settlement of the existing National difficulties.

III.—*Resolved*, That a copy of this call and the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to each of the Senators and Representatives of this State in Congress, and also to each of the Senators and Representatives in our State Legislature.

Committee appointed by the Chairman, on the First Resolution.

SIMEON BALDWIN,	F. S. LATHROP,	THEODOSIUS BARTOW,
NATHANIEL SANDS,	JOHN R. VOORHIS,	HUGH AUCHINCLOSS,
JACOB ANTHONY, Jr.	D. HENRY HAIGHT,	SAMUEL HALL.

Committee appointed by the Chairman, on the Second Resolution.

A. A. LOW,	WILLIAM A. BOOTH,	SAMUEL D. BABCOCK,
LUTHER BRADISH,	E. E. MORGAN,	WM. W. DE FOREST,
PELETIAH PERIT,	EDWIN HOYT,	E. H. GILLILAN,
PETER COOPER,	R. C. ROOT,	HENRY A. HURLBURT,
WILLIAM E. DODGE,	JAMES HARPER,	WILSON G. HUNT,
HENRY A. SMYTHE,	ROYAL PHELPS,	WALDEN PELL.
WILLIAM H. ASPINWALL,		

WILLIAM A. BOOTH, *Chairman of the Meeting.*
SIMEON BALDWIN, *Secretary of the Meeting.*

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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

TO A MEETING AT THE ROOMS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Saturday, January 26, 1861.

The Special Committee to whom was assigned the duty of digesting and presenting a proper basis of action for the Committee charged with the presentation to Congress of the Memorial of Citizens of New York, praying that such measures may be adopted by Congress as will restore tranquillity and peace to our now distracted country, beg leave respectfully to Report,—

That, since the last meeting of the Memorial Committee, a legislative printed Document has been received, stated to embrace Propositions for an adjustment of pending difficulties between the Northern and Southern States, agreed upon by a Committee of the Border States, including Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, and North Carolina, from the South; and New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, from the North. These Propositions contemplate both Acts of Legislation and Amendments of the Constitution, and which, with some modifications and additions, are as follows, and which the Special Committee adopt as part of this their Report, which they submit for the consideration of the Memorial Committee, and respectfully recommend for their adoption as the basis of their action under the Memorial, and in furtherance of its objects:

"JOINT RESOLUTION"

Proposing certain amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Whereas serious and alarming dissensions have arisen between the northern and southern States concerning the right, and security of the rights of the slaveholding States, and especially their rights in the common Territory of the United States; and whereas it is eminently desirable and proper that those dissensions, which now threaten the very existence of this Union, should be permanently quieted and settled by constitutional provisions, which shall do equal justice to all sections, and thereby restore to the people that peace and good will which ought to prevail between all the citizens of the United States: Therefore—

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two-thirds of both Houses concurring, That the following articles be, and are hereby, proposed and submitted as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of said Constitution, when ratified by conventions of three-fourths of the several States:

Article 1. That Congress shall have no power to legislate touching persons held to service or labor in places under its exclusive jurisdiction within the limits of States which have made cessions to the United States, without the consent of the State or States making such grants.

Article 2. That in all the present Territory of the United States, situate north of latitude thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, shall be prohibited while such

Territory shall remain under territorial government. That in all the present Territory of the United States south of said line, neither Congress, nor any territorial legislature, shall hereafter pass any law abolishing or prohibiting, or in any manner interfering with African slavery; and when any such Territory north or south of said line, within such boundaries as Congress may prescribe, in any area of sixty thousand square miles, shall contain a population entitling it to one member of Congress, and shall apply for admission, as a State, into the Union, it shall come in on an equality with the other States, with or without slavery, as its constitution may determine.

ARTICLE 3. That the laws for the suppression of the African slave trade ought to be made effectual, and ought to be thoroughly executed; and that the importation of slaves from abroad into the United States or its Territories is prohibited perpetually.

ARTICLE 4. Congress shall have no power to prohibit the removal or transportation of persons held to service or labor from any State in which such service or labor is recognized by law to another State in which such service or labor is so recognized.

ARTICLE 5. Congress shall have no power to regulate, abolish, or control within the States, the relations established or recognized by the law of any State respecting persons held to service or labor by the laws thereof.

ARTICLE 6. That no Territory shall be acquired by the United States, without the consent of three-fourths of the members of the Senate.

And whereas, also, besides those causes of dissension embraced in the foregoing amendments proposed to the Constitution of the United States, there are others which come within the jurisdiction of Congress, and may be remedied by its legislative power; and whereas it is the desire of Congress, as far as its power extends, to remove all just cause for the popular discontent and agitation which now disturb the peace of the country, and threaten the stability of its institutions: Therefore—

1. *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the laws now in force for the recovery of fugitive slaves are in strict pursuance of the plain and mandatory provisions of the Constitution, and have been sanctioned as valid and constitutional by the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States; that the slaveholding States are entitled to the faithful observance and execution of those laws, and that they ought not to be repealed or so modified or changed as to impair their efficiency; and that laws ought to be made for the punishment of those who attempt, by rescue of the slave or other illegal means, to hinder or defeat the due execution of said laws.

2. That all State laws which conflict with the fugitive slave acts, or any other constitutional acts of Congress, or which in their operation impede, hinder, or delay the free course and due execution of any of said acts, are null and void by the plain provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and we respectfully and earnestly recommend to the several States which have enacted them their immediate repeal.

3. That the act of the eighteenth of September, eighteen hundred and fifty, commonly known as "*The fugitive slave law*," ought to be amended so as to provide for its more complete and efficient operation, and that such amendments should provide, among other things, for the prevention of kidnapping under it, and to equalize the fees of the commissioner mentioned in the eighth section thereof.

4. That an act be passed directing that the demand for the surrender of fugitives from justice or from service or labor be made to the United States District Judge of the State and District in which such fugitive may be found, thereby to make the right of surrender, in every case, a judicial question, and thus secure justice and uniformity of decision.

5. That an act be passed punishing marauding expeditions from any State or Territory of this Union against the people of any other State or Territory, and also punishing the setter on foot or organization of such expeditions, or making preparations therefor.

All which is respectfully submitted.

A. A. LOW,
L. BRADISH,
W. E. DODGE,
ROYAL PHELPS,
WM. A. BOOTH.

At a meeting of the Committee of citizens at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, New York, Saturday, January 26, 1861, the preceding Report was unanimously adopted, and a Committee, consisting of thirty gentlemen, was authorized to proceed to Washington and urge the said Report upon the consideration of Congress.

A. A. LOW, *Chairman.*
J. SMITH HOMANS, *Secretary.*

NEW YORK, *January* 26, 1861.

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 26, 1861.

LUTHER BRADISH,
E. H. GILLILAN,
JAMES HARPER,
D. HENRY HAIGHT,
WILSON G. HUNT,
HENRY A. HURLBUT,
R. L. KENNEDY,
DANIEL LORD,
A. A. LOW,
F. S. LATHROP,
JOHN J. PHELPS,
ROYAL PHELPS,
GEORGE S. ROBBINS,
R. C. ROOT,
NATHANIEL SANDS,
HENRY A. SMYTHE,
JONATHAN STURGES,
F. S. WINSTON,
HENRY YOUNG,
A. R. WETMORE,
E. E. MORGAN,
HUGH AUCHINCLOSS,
WM. V. BRADY,
STEWART BROWN,
WILLIAM A. BOOTH,
THEODOSIUS BARTOW,
SAMUEL D. BABCOCK,
PETER COOPER,
WILLIAM E. DODGE,
JOHN C. GREEN,
JAMES GALLATIN,

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